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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/718,530	11/21/2000	Richard Odle	2224.001	2559

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EXAMINER

BROWN, VERNAL U

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/718,530

Applicant(s)

ODLE ET AL.

Examiner

Vernal U Brown

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The application of Richard Odle for Print Access SecuritySystem filed November 21, 2000 has been examined. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Drawings

The application has been filed with informal drawings that are acceptable for examining purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. U.S. Patent 6100811.

Regarding claim 1, Hsu et al. teaches a security system for authorization to operate a vehicle (figure 5) comprising a fingerprint enrollment and verification module (the FEVM comprises fingerprint sensors 14, and 16 and the verification module 30), the FEVM is adapted for electrical connection to the electrical system of a vehicle (figure 5),

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a sensor means (14) mounted to capture a fingerprint image for authorization to operate the vehicle. Hsu et al. is however not explicit in teaching the fingerprint sensor mounted in the opening of the fingerprint and verification module. One skilled in the art recognizes that the placement of the fingerprint sensor does not change the functionality of the fingerprint verification module. It is therefore an obvious choice to place the fingerprint sensor in the opening of the verification module.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to mount the fingerprint sensor in the opening of the fingerprint and verification module because Hsu et al. suggests the fingerprint verification module connected to the fingerprint sensor and one skilled in the art recognizes that placement of the fingerprint sensor does not change the functionality of the fingerprint verification module, therefore it is a obvious choice to place the fingerprint sensor in the opening of the verification module.

Regarding claim 3, Hsu et al. teaches verification mode wherein the fingerprint evaluation and enrollment module apply statistical information of the archived template (the stored fingerprint) to a current to a current fingerprint image capture by the sensor (col. 2 lines 55-58).

Regarding claims 4-5 and 7, Hsu et al. teaches the operation of the vehicle is permitted when the current fingerprint and the archive fingerprint match and the operation of a vehicle is

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denied when the archived template (fingerprint) and current image acquired by the sensor do not match (col. 2 lines 61-col. 3 line 6). Hsu et al. further teaches electrical powered door lock (34).

Regarding claim 6, Hsu et al. teaches the vehicle has passenger doors (figure 1), and the fingerprint sensor is mounted on one of the passenger doors and is further connected to the fingerprint enrollment and verification module (30) as shown in figure 5 and wired into the vehicle's electrical system.

Regarding claim 8, Hsu et al. teaches vehicle has passenger doors (figure 1) and an electrical door lock circuit (34), the doors including electrically powered door locks connected to the electrical door lock circuit and the FEVM is electrically connected to the door lock circuit (figure 5), the FEVM acting as a switch activating the circuit the said template and the image match (col. 4 lines 30-31).

Regarding claim 9, Hsu et al. teaches the FEVM unlock the doors (col. 4 lines 38-41).

Regarding claim 10, Hsu et al. teaches the FEVM is mounted in the vehicle and is electrically wired into the electrical system of the vehicle (figure 5), the sensor of the FEVM is placed in the door handle therefore the sensor faces outwardly exposing the sensor means (col. 4 lines 43-44).

Regarding claim 11-12, Hsu et al. teaches the elements of claims 11 and 12 which is already addressed in claims 8 and 2 above.

Regarding claim 13, teaches the FEVM energizes the circuits and operates the subsidiary system (col. 4 lines 29-33).

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Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al. U.S Patent 6100811 in view of Gallagher U.S Patent 5253746.

Regarding claim 2, Hsu et al. teaches an enrollment mode in which fingerprint image is transformed to a template, the template having statistical information about the fingerprint image and is communicated to memory for archiving (col. 2 lines 35-39). Hsu et al. is however silent on teaching the use of flash memory. One skilled in the art recognizes that flash memory are widely used as storage device to prevent the loss of information in the event of a power outage as evidenced by Gallagher (col. 4 line 61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use flash memory for storing the fingerprint template in memory in Hsu et al. as evidenced by Gallagher because Hsu et al. suggests storing the fingerprint in memory and one skilled in the art recognizes that flash memory are widely used as storage device to prevent the loss of information in the event of a power outage as evidenced by Gallagher

Conclusion

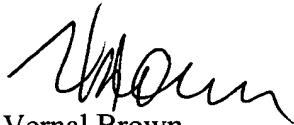
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vernal U Brown whose telephone number is 703-305-3864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 703-305-4704. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-6743 for regular communications and 703-308-6743 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Vernal Brown
March 6, 2003

MICHAEL HORABIK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

